

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented) A distributed digital television system comprising:
a plurality of discrete television sets; and
for decoding digital television signals for display at the television sets, a plurality of respective distributed signal decoding arrangements having respective cryptographic engines configured for executing conditional access, said system being configured for transferring, over a network linking the plural sets and from a source from among said arrangements to a destination from among said arrangements, a decryption key usable for conditional access by the respective cryptographic engine of the destination arrangement.
2. (original) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the said network comprises a television signal distribution network for delivering digital television signals to the television sets.
3. (previously presented) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said network includes filters and radio frequency feeder cables mutually arranged to selectively route keys transferred in said transferring and said signals.
4. (previously presented) A system as claimed in claim 1, configured for performing said transferring under a separate cryptographic layer of security.
5. (previously presented) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein each television set includes an arrangement of said distributed signal decoding arrangements.
6. (canceled)

7. (canceled)

8. (previously presented) A local digital television apparatus including a digital signal decoding arrangement for receiving coded digital television signals and including a conditional access module configured for the input and output of decryption keys serving to control the decoding of the digital television signal either locally within the apparatus by means of said input or remotely at further digital television apparatus by means of said output.

9. (currently amended) A Digital digital television unitapparatus including:
a digital signal decoding arrangement for receiving coded digital television signals;
——means for inputting the input and output of decoding authorization data serving so as to control, locally within the unit, the decoding of a coded the digital television signal received signal either locally within the apparatus, said means being further configured for outputting decoding authorization data so as to or remotely control decoding of a coded digital television signal received at another digital television unit at further digital television apparatus; and

a paired television set and digital decoding arrangement including that includes demultiplexing means for splitting, from a received digital television signal, said decoding authorization data for local controlfrom a received digital television signal.

10. (previously presented) A method of controlling the distribution of digital television signals within a digital television system comprising a plurality of discrete television sets, said method comprising:

decoding incoming television signals locally at each television set; and
distributing decoding authorization data between the plural television sets;
wherein the distributing comprises transferring a decryption key from a
conditional access module of a digital decoding arrangement associated with one
television set for operation in association with a conditional access module of a digital
decoding arrangement associated with another television set.

11. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said transferring of the
decryption key transfers from a smart card of said source arrangement to a smart card of
said destination arrangement.

12. (previously presented) The system of claim 11, wherein said smart card
includes key management hardware configured for communicating with a radio
frequency local area network established between ones of said sets.

13. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said plurality includes
at least three sets having said respective distributed signal decoding arrangements, said
system being further configured for said transferring from any one to any other of the at
least three respective arrangements.

14. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, further configured so that said
transferring restricts display, at said source, of specific broadcasted content whose
display said transferring authorizes at said destination.

15. (previously presented) The system of claim 14, wherein said plurality includes
at least three sets having said respective distributed signal decoding arrangements, said

system being further configured for said transferring from any one to any other of the at least three respective arrangements with the associated display restrictions and authorizations.

16. (previously presented) The local apparatus of claim 8, further comprising a paired television set and digital decoding arrangement, said arrangement including a cryptographic engine, and further including both a demultiplexer for splitting decoding authorization data from a received digital television signal to yield a remaining signal and a second demultiplexer for dividing said remaining signal into separate signals for inputting into said cryptographic engine.

17. (previously presented) The local apparatus of claim 8, configured so that inputting locally authorizes display, at the apparatus, of specific broadcasted content, said inputting serving to input a decryption key outputted from said further apparatus, the outputting restricting display of said content at said further apparatus.

18. (previously presented) A television system including both the local, and the further, digital television apparatus of claim 8.

19. (previously presented) The system of claim 18, configured so that inputting locally authorizes display, at the apparatus, of specific broadcasted content, said inputting serving to input a decryption key outputted from said further apparatus, the outputting restricting display of said content at said further apparatus, said system being further configured conversely such that inputting a decryption key into said further apparatus authorizes display, at said further apparatus, of specific broadcasted content but restricts display of said content at said local apparatus which has supplied said decryption key.

20. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein said transferring of the decryption key transfers from a smart card of said source arrangement to a smart card of said destination arrangement.

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein said smart card includes key management hardware configured for communicating with a radio frequency local area network established between ones of said sets.

22. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein said plurality includes at least three sets having said respective distributed signal decoding arrangements, said system being further configured for said transferring from any one to any other of the at least three respective arrangements.